

Juvenile Justice-Related Recommendations
Child and Adolescent Behavioral Services Policy and Planning Committee
FYO5

In order of priority:

1. Support Recommendation # 7 of the Child and Adolescent Special Populations' Workgroup (Crosswalk Document including 329-G Workgroup Recommendations) which states:

Encourage DMAS to "suspend" rather than terminate Medicaid benefits while children are in a public institution.

2. Given the success of the pilot program providing mental health services to adolescents in five juvenile detention centers throughout the Commonwealth (reducing hospitalizations, reducing use of room confinement as behavior management tool, reducing use of isolation cells for observation of suicidal residents, and providing needed mental health services to high at-risk population):

1. Ensure that a position in the Office of Child and Family Services at DMHMRSAS remains funded, with at least fifty percent of time dedicated to this project.
- A. **Mandate completion of evaluation of the pilot program and establish programmatic standards.**
1. Expand the program to cover all twenty-four juvenile detention centers throughout the Commonwealth.

3. Support funding recommendations needed to ensure compliance with standards established by DMHMRSAS, DJJ, DOE, and other agencies responsible pursuant to HB 2245 and SB 843, passed by the 2005 General Assembly, requiring coordination and delivery of mental health/substance abuse services to juveniles transitioning from Juvenile Correctional Centers or post-dispositional detention programs.

4. Recommend that the Commissioner for DMHMRSAS, Director of DJJ, and Director of DOE conduct a feasibility study for establishing psychiatric treatment programs in existing secure detention facilities.